

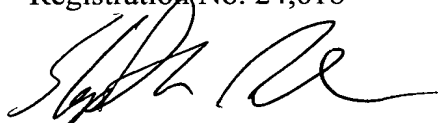
The rejection of Claims 56-70 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and the rejection of Claims 69 and 70 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been obviated by appropriate amendment. As the Examiner will also note, Applicants have rewritten the claims such that they are free of the criticisms set forth on pages 3 and 4, of the specification. In particular, Claim 56 has been amended to recite "wherein said polypeptide is encoded by said nucleotide subsequence" and the nucleotide subsequence, in turn, has been defined as being "selected from the group consisting of" a set of nucleotide sequences. Thus, these rejections are no longer tenable and should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and early notification of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

--56. (Amended) A purified polypeptide, wherein said purified polypeptide is expressed by a recombinant cell host, and

wherein said recombinant cell host contains a polynucleotide,

[wherein said polypeptide is encoded by said polynucleotide, and]

wherein said polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide subsequence,

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by said nucleotide subsequence, and

wherein said nucleotide subsequence is selected from the group consisting of:

a) [a polynucleotide comprising] the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 1;

b) [a polynucleotide comprising] the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 2, or a biologically active polynucleotide derivative of SEQ ID NO 2;

c) [a polynucleotide comprising] the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 3, or a biologically active polynucleotide derivative of SEQ ID NO 3;

d) [a polynucleotide comprising] the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO 4;

e) a [polynucleotide comprising] nucleotide sequence having at least 12 consecutive nucleotides of a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4;

f) a [polynucleotide] nucleotide sequence having a sequence fully complimentary to a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4; and

g) a [polynucleotide] nucleotide sequence hybridizing under stringent hybridization conditions with a polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO 2, SEQ ID NO 3, and SEQ ID NO 4.

57. (Amended) A purified polypeptide of Claim 56 which is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide which comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 5;
- b) a polypeptide comprising[:
 - i)] from amino acid in position 1 to amino acid in position 48 of SEQ ID NO 5; [or]
 - c) [ii)] a polypeptide comprising from amino acid in position 60 to amino acid in position 100 of SEQ ID NO 5;
- d) [c)] a polypeptide comprising at least one antigenic portion of [a polypeptide a) or b)] the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO 5;
- e) a polypeptide comprising at least one antigenic portion of the amino acid sequence from amino acid in position 1 to amino acid in position 48 of SEQ ID NO 5; and
- f) a polypeptide comprising at least one antigenic portion of the amino acid sequence from amino acid in position 60 to amino acid in position 100 of SEQ ID NO 5.--

Please add the following new claim:

--71. (New) A purified polypeptide encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID 1, 2, 3, or 4.--